

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REACTION -OCTOBER 27

1. AL-AHRAM

THREE HEADLINES ANNOUNCED SOVIET DISPATCH OF
CEASEFIRE OBSERVERS TO CANAL FRONT "IN RESPONSE TO
SADAT." MAIN STORY LED WITH EGYPTIAN MILITARY OPERA-
TIONS ON CANAL FRONT AND COVERED DISPATCH OF SOVIET
OBSERVERS AND BREZHNEV'S CALL ON US TO DO LIKEWISE.

NIXON WAS QUOTED AT NEWS CONFERENCE AS SAYING TWO
SUPERPOWERS "AGREED TO EXERT INFLUENCE MORE THAN EVER
BEFORE TO START NEGOTIATIONS AMONG CONCERNED PARTIES."
THESE NEGOTIATIONS, NIXON STATED, SEEK "NOT TRUCE, BUT
PERMANENT SETTLEMENT AND REAL PEACE." NIXON WAS ALSO
QUOTED AS SAYING, "CONCERNING ME, US FRIENDS WERE
NOT AS COOPERATIVE AS THEY SHOULD" AND PREDICTING
"EUROPE, WHICH DEPENDS ON ME FOR 80 PERCENT OF OIL NEEDS,
WILL FREEZE THIS WINTER UNLESS ME CRISIS IS SETTLED."

TWO LOWER FRONT PAGE STORIES REPORTED US GRANDUALLY
LIFTING STRATEGIC ALERT AND US "ADMISSION THAT TOTAL
US OIL IMPORTS MAY BE REDUCED BY 10 PERCENT DUE TO ARAB
RESTRICTIONS ON OIL TO US."

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FEATURE PAGE CARRIED FULL TEXT OF KISSINGER'S

THURSDAY PRESS CONFERENCE AND RESTON'S "MINIMUM OF CONFIDENCE" COMMENTARY.

COLUMNIST IBRAHIM NAFIE WROTE: "IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED INHUMAN IF WE SHOULD WISH US TO EXPERIENCE A SEVERE WINTER, BUT IT IS INHUMANITY ITSELF THAT US SUPPLIES THE ISRAELI ENEMY WITH ARMS THAT (HIT CIVILIAN TARGETS) WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, DECISION (TO RESTRICT ARAB) OIL SHOULD BE COUPLED WITH OTHER DECISIONS CLEARLY AIMED AT US DOLLAR AND ECONOMY." NAFIE SUGGESTED ARABS REFUSE DOLLAR IN FOREIGN TRANSACTIONS, RECEIVE PAYMENT IN HARD CURRENCY OTHER THAN DOLLAR FROM ARAB EXPORTS, CANCEL CONTRACTS WITH US COMPANIES, CONVERT RESERVE FUNDS INTO OTHER CURRENCIES AND PURCHASE GOLD SO THAT DOLLAR IS DEVALUATED.

COLUMNIST ALI HAMDI EL-GAMMAL ASSERTED THAT US, "WHICH STILL RESPONDS TO ALL ISRAELI ARMS REQUESTS," SHOULD SEE THAT "BY VIOLATING CEASEFIRE, ISRAEL NOW SEEKS TO IMPROVE POSITION AND CORRECT TARNISHED IMAGE CAUSED BY EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES ACCOMPLISHMENTS."

2. AKHBAR EL-YOM

BANNERHEAD UNDERSCORED DISPATCH OF SOVIET OBSERVERS "IN RESPONSE TO SADAT'S REQUEST" AS WELL AS EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI STATEMENTS ON REPORTED SINAI CLASHES.

THREE-COLUMN STORY REFLECTED EGYPTIAN VIEW THAT EMERGENCY FORCES PRIME MISSION IS TO PULL BACK ISRAELI FORCES TO OCTOBER 22 LINES.

THREE-COLUMN STORY QUOTED NIXON'S STATEMENT REGARDING USSR INTENTION TO DISPATCH "HUGE MILITARY POWER" TO ME. TWO-COLUMN STORY, WITH BREZHNEV'S PHOTO, REPORTED ALERT STATUS FOR SEVEN SOVIET DIVISIONS.

SINGLE-COLUMN FRONT PAGE ITEMS REPORTED US OIL FAMINE; STATE DEPARTMENT'S "SURPRISE" THAT SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES "EXERTED EFFORT TO KEEP THEMSELVES AWAY FROM US DURING ME CRISIS"; GRADUAL LIFTING US STRATEGIC ALERT; NIXON'S PREDICATION THAT EUROPE WILL "FREEZE THIS WINTER"; AND US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OVER SYRIA.

MAIN FOREIGN PAGE STORIES DEALT WITH US "ADMISSION THAT RESTRICTING ARAB OIL WILL LEAD TO GRAVE CONSEQUENCES."

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SEQUENCES THAT WILL APPEAR DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS" AND THURSDAY FLIGHT OF US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OVER EGYPT. RECONNAISSANCE PLANE STORY ARGUES THAT "IN ADDITION TO US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO ISRAEL, US INTELLIGENCE SUPPLIES ISRAEL WITH INFORMATION COVERING ALL DEVELOPMENTS INSIDE ARAB COUNTRIES."

TWO FEATURES COVERED FAILURE OF ISRAELI "SHRIKES" TO JAM EGYPTIAN RADAR AND ISRAEL'S FREQUENT TRUCE

AGREEMENTS VIOLATIONS.

IHSAN ABDEL-QUDDOUS, SOMETIME SPOKESMAN FOR PRESIDENT SADAT, IN WEEKLY EDITORIAL, ATTRIBUTED "US FULL ME WAR PARTICIPATION" TO KISSINGER'S DESIGN "TO LIFT ISRAEL TO POSITION OF STRENGTH EVEN THOUGH HE MAY BE INTERESTED IN PEACE." USSR, ABDEL-QUDDOUS ADDED, "SIDES WITH US...TO PLACE SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE IN "PERSPECTIVE RESPECTED BY THE WORLD." HE WARNED THAT CRISIS MAY FREEZE FOLLOWING CEASEFIRE AND THAT CEASEFIRE MEANS (AS IT DOES IN VIETNAM) "NOT PUTTING DOWN ARMS, BUT PREPARING ARMS FOR GREATER AND MORE VIOLENT BATTLE."

3. AL-GOMHOURIYA

FIVE BANNERHEADS HIGHLIGHTED "SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES ARRIVAL IN ME IN RESPONSE TO SADAT'S REQUEST," BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT THAT "TIME HAS COME TO TAKE URGENT AND EFFEC-TIVE STEPS TO IMPLEMENT UN RESOLUTIONS AND HAVE FULL AND INSTANT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL" AND US "READINESS TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS TEAM IT UN REQUESTS."

EDITOR-IN CHIEF MOSTAFA BAHGAT BADAWAI EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT US GLOBAL ALERT WAS IN SUPPORT TO TINY AND AGGRESSIVE ISRAEL.

4. COMMENT

MAIN PLAY IN TODAY'S PRESS WAS GIVEN TO SINAI MILITARY OPERATIONS AND SOVIET SUPPORT OF EGYPT BY SENDING CEASEFIRE OBSERVERS IMMEDIATELY UPON SADAT'S REQUEST.

PERHAPS, BECAUSE EGYPT WANTS TO SET STAGE FOR CEASEFIRE AND NEGOTIATIONS, NEWS COMMENT AND EDITORIALS WERE NOT OVERLY EMOTIONAL OR BITTER ABOUT US PRO-ISRAEL POLICY. FAIR PLAY WAS GIVEN TO NIXON PRESS STATEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HE HAD AGREED TO EXERT GREATER INFLUENCE THAN EVER BEFORE TO ACHIEVE PERMANENT AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ME CRISIS. HOWEVER, NEWS PLAY AND EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THEME THAT US IS FULL PARTNER WITH ISRAEL IN THIS WAR AND EGYPT AND ALL ARAB STATES MUST DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER (PRESSURE ON US COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND OIL INTERESTS) TO GAIN RETRIBUTION.
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